



ELDRIDGE CLEAVER
... seeks U.S. passport



BOBBY SEALE
... protests raids

Cleaver Makes Bid For Return to U.S.

Associated Press

American diplomats in Algiers have told Black Panther leader Eldridge Cleaver he can have papers to let him return to the U.S., where his group is in the throes of a leadership crisis.

A chain of violent confrontations between Panthers and police, along with ideological schisms and party purges, have devastated the Panthers' leadership ranks.

This series of events presumably heightened pressure on Cleaver, the Panthers' best known leader, to end his self-imposed exile.

Diplomatic and law enforcement sources insist the government is not negotiating with Cleaver, who fled this country a year ago to avoid prosecution for parole violation and assault with intent to kill.

But, sources say, the United States is willing furnish the fugitive Panther with a certificate of identification which would allow him to travel home by ship or plane from

Algeria, where he has found sanctuary.

State Department press officer Robert J. McCloskey said Cleaver had appeared at a U.S. diplomatic office in Algiers on Nov. 27. He was accompanied by three men McCloskey said were sought for airline hijackings—Byron Vaughn Booth, Clinton Orbert Smith and James Joseph Patterson.

All asked for passports to return to the United States, McCloskey said, but the requests were refused.